

II. Sketching Objects in which Perspective is gradually introduced; such as cups, jugs, bottles, shoes, boots, caps, hats, large shells, candlesticks, pincers, coal-scuttles, boxes and books in various positions, open and shut, a twig with several leaves, a simple flower, table, chair, &c.

III. Subsidiary Exercises, introduced occasionally for the sake of variety and the discipline they offer to the faculties in new directions.

a. Drawing, from Memory, objects previously drawn in I. and II.

b. Drawing from Outline Copies of familiar objects—at first not requiring perspective, as side of a cottage, dog-kennel, bridge, tomb, well, wheelbarrow, very easy animals and figures, geometrical figures, Roman and writing letters, &c.

c. Drawing small with a pencil on slate, from objects and copies.

d. Inventing and drawing very simple borders, patterns, and other ornaments, the ideas occasionally taken from a leaf.

e. Drawing, from memory, objects that have not been drawn from nature or copies.

f. Petty compositions, as nurse and infant, man and pig, gardener digging or rolling, &c. Exercises d, e, and f, were chiefly confined to pupils in the second part of this stage.

Second Stage. Light and Shade: Rough drawing on brown paper, or coarse coloured paper, with black Conté chalk, putting in the light with white chalk, the paper serving for the middle tint. This appears to be the most rapid method practicable by a child, who loves patience and spirit, and fails, if the sketch is elaborate and takes much time.

I. Drawing common Objects that show light and shade very distinctly, as an apple, pear, orange, cup, jug, bottle, glass, vase, geometrical solids, book and box open and shut, models of animals, heads, &c., at first singly; afterwards two or more arranged picturesquely, and in reference to light, shade, shadow, and reflection, &c.

II. Drawings from Copies of objects not readily accessible, as houses, animals, the human figure, &c.

III. Subsidiary Exercises, occasionally introduced:—

a. Sketching in outline, on black board, from memory, objects in I. and II.

b. Inventing patterns and ornaments, as in d, Stage I.

c. Drawing from memory, on black board, as in e, Stage I.

d. Original compositions, as in f, Stage I.

e. Drawing on white paper with lead pencil, small, to promote neatness.

This course of instruction has not yet been pursued further with the children. It appears to give great pleasure to all the pupils, about thirty in number, who have pursued it, even to those who are the slowest and least apt. It would probably be the quickest method of instructing youths and adults in drawing, independent of its effect as a discipline for the faculties, which last has been the main object with regard to the children who have used it. The lead pencil, sepia, and colour would, it is thought, follow with unusual ease and power, in those cases where such articles could be purchased.*

* Common White Chalk has been found the best material for beginners; it admits of large outline sketching only; forbids all but the most essential lines; can be marked and rubbed out with the greatest facility; and allows a greater number of drawings to be made in a lesson than could be done with equal correctness and spirit by the use of any other material. As far as the pupil goes he succeeds, though in a rough way, and this puts him in good spirits for future exertions. The drawings certainly do not last; but a beginner seldom cares to keep his first rude essays. A stick of prepared chalk may be used; but a rough piece, such as carpenters employ, answers perfectly well. The chalk should be held between the thumb and the two first fingers; not put into a crayon-holder; and it should not be cut to a fine point.

Chalking Board.—Any hard, dark surface will answer for chalking on; the most convenient is a board or mill-board painted of any dark colour, or a large slate. For the youngest pupils, the board should not be less than 14 inches by 20; and it should be larger for youths and adults. These three materials would cost nearly the same (i. e. from 1s. to 1s. 6d.), supposing the slate to be not framed. Wood and mill-board are lighter and more portable than slate, but require painting in a peculiar manner, as common black paint is not sufficiently hard. The mill-board also must be very good and exceedingly thick; otherwise it is certain to crack, that is to warp, extensively. Chalking lessons may also be given on enamel school-books painted of a dark colour; or on painted walls, especially wainscots; or on long painted deals; or, to young pupils, on the seats of tall benches. If it be desirable to preserve the sketches, they can be drawn on coarse brown paper; but this substance does not allow false chalk lines to be erased completely.

Rubbing.—The best material for rubbing out chalk lines is a rubber made by rolling several feet of coarse list. A coarse cloth or a soft brush also answers.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A SPECIAL court was held on Thursday, the 12th inst., at the court house, Greek-street. The Earl of Carlisle in the chair.

The State of St. Giles's.—A voluminous report was presented to the court by Mr. Gatto, on the state of Church-lane, and other places in that locality. It represented them as being the report of the most depraved and filthy class of the community, and the remnant of the mass of buildings known as the "Rookery." Its condition was described as unparalleled in London, and a perfect disgrace to any civilized community; but while the most fearful degradation of the human character is exhibited, there apparently exists an universal sense of their sanitary danger, and a sincere desire for relief; interest and gratitude are expressed on every hand at even the prospect of being placed under circumstances affording the opportunity of cultivating cleanliness, comfort, and privacy, of which they are now wholly deprived. It also appeared that an extended system of sub-letting is carried on; the houses in the first instance being let for a term of years at about 20l. per annum; they are then re-let house by house; these are again sub-let out in rooms, and, lastly, the separate beds are underlet to tramps and others at about 3d. per night,—producing annually about 70l. per house per annum. The number of persons residing on this spot is described as being greater in proportion than in any other part of the metropolis. Ninety-five houses stand on 1 and 1-10th acre, with an average population of 2,580, or 30 persons to each house. The report concluded with various suggestions for the improvement of the neighbourhood, to be effected by means of an improvement-rate chargeable on the property for twenty-two years, to the amount of 795l. 3s. 8d., or an annual rate, to repay interest and principal, of 51l. 13s. 9d.

Lord Ebrington moved:—"That, as a temporary relief, all the cesspools be immediately emptied, and the streets, yards, and courts washed out; that the necessity of thorough lime-whiting be immediately represented to the ground landlords."

Mr. Leslie wished to know from the surveyor whether there had been any communication with the landlords of the property?

Mr. Gatto said he had understood the owners were quite willing to co-operate with this commission for the proposed works, but that they were unwilling to pay for them all at once.

An agent who attended for Sir John Hanmer said he had no doubt that Sir John would be delighted that these steps were in contemplation, and that he would be quite ready to acquiesce in any measures for the improvement of his property.

The Earl of Carlisle thought it might admit of a question how these rates should be raised. If the houses were afterwards pulled down.—Lord Ebrington apprehended that it signified little whether a charge for the improvement of property were made all at once, or spread over a series of years.—Mr. Chadwick believed the same course was pursued with regard to land under the Inclosure Commission.

Mr. Bullar could not agree that this was a parallel case. If Sir John Hanmer were called upon to pay at once for these improvements, and he afterwards pulled the houses down, he would in that case be the only loser; but under the improvement rate, if the houses were pulled down and the space thrown into the street, the ratepayers would then have to pay these rates in addition to their ordinary charges. It was under consideration the propriety of applying to Parliament for fresh powers on the subject of improvement rates.—Mr. Leslie denied they had any power to charge the owners of land, and thought the proper course would be to summon the owners, and to hear what they intended to do as regarded their property, and to let them do it in their own way. He deprecated their practice of coming to a conclusion first, and then asking the consent of parties afterwards. This court had no power whatever to cleanse private cesspools on any premises without the consent of the owners.

Several other commissioners having expressed their opinions, the motion was put and agreed to, and resolutions were subsequently adopted to enable the owners to do the works themselves, and empowering the officers of the commission to proceed if the owners did not.

The Drainage of Pheasant-court, Gray's Inn-lane.—The assistant-surveyor presented a report on the state of the houses in this neighbourhood, which represented them as being extremely filthy and disgusting, and crowded to excess with persons of the poorest classes. In one case eighty persons occupied one house, several others upwards of seventy, and the average number of the whole varied from thirty to thirty-five persons in each house. The report stated that, notwithstanding this herding together of persons, the windows were frequently unopened for days together; there was little or no drainage, and a tainted and pestiferous atmosphere. Within a few days six fatal cases of cholera had oc-

curred in the neighbourhood. The report concluded with recommendations that the houses should be lime whited, the cesspools abolished, and a proper drainage and supply of water laid down, the expense of which to be met by an improvement rate on the property.

Mr. Chadwick moved the adoption of the report, and believed that the system of charging improvements over a series of years would be found by the parishes to be a cheap course to take upon themselves for improvements, with but a small amount of risk.—Mr. Leslie again deprecated the principle of the court taking upon themselves charges that ought to be borne by the owners of the property; and one result of their hasty proceedings was the suit in Chancery, which would be attended with the most frightful expenditure. He thought the question ought to have been taken up by the Board of Health.—Mr. Chadwick said the Board of Health had no power to prosecute for a neglect of their orders, but in every case where cholera had broken out they found a complete violation of their instructions.—It was then resolved:—"That the facts as to the deplorable state of Pheasant-court, Gray's Inn-lane, be forthwith communicated to the local authorities, and that they be requested to carry into effect those of the remedies with which they are chargeable."

Several other detail resolutions on the subject were agreed to. Immediately upon these resolutions being carried, the following letter was handed into the court from Mr. Gatto:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen.—I beg most respectfully to call the attention of the court to the several works which have been ordered as urgent, upon reports in which I have either been associated with other officers or prepared by myself, viz.: Gulston-street, Sydenham, Church-lane, and Pheasant-court, Gray's Inn-lane, as the court might suppose, these works, after they have been ordered, are immediately commenced. It is in order to be relieved from the responsibility and delay which might be thrown upon me in the event of the outbreak of cholera, which is daily expected in such places, that I take the liberty of informing the court, that for want of bye-law regulations and other instructions, no steps whatever have been or can be taken in cases ordered some time ago; and that the works ordered to-day will be under the same circumstances."

A conversation ensued upon the difficulty of getting together a quorum of the Bye-Laws Committee, the legal members of it being from town on the circuit, or otherwise actively engaged. The following resolution was finally adopted:—

"That the notices applicable to the works ordered at this court be prepared by the solicitors, and, on approval by the standing counsel, be made use of."

The Bernandsey Mill Streams.—A letter was read from Mr. Rains, addressed to the Earl of Carlisle, asking for compensation for the destruction of his property in the stoppage of the above mill-streams, by order of the commissioners.

Mr. Bullar believed counsel were strongly of opinion that the Vice-Chancellor had no power to order an injunction; and even were he to do so, it would be dissolved by the Lord Chancellor, under the power of the 61st section.

The 61st section recites: "that the commissioners may undertake any work of any description without any notice or other proceeding hereinbefore required, where, from flood, storm, or other urgent cause, the commissioners shall deem it necessary that the delay occasioned by such proceedings should be avoided."

Mr. Leslie believed that they were not justified in spending the ratepayers' money for law proceedings, and it was the opinion of barristers that, whether right or wrong, as they had commenced the work without notices, they would have to pay the expenses. In fact, they might consider themselves fortunate if they got out of the "mess" for 1,000l. This was one of the evils that had arisen from business being done in committee instead of in open court.

Mr. Chadwick denied that any such expense would be incurred in these proceedings. Their surveyor had received general orders to stop up what they believed to be the cause of death.

Consideration postponed.

The Cholera.—Dr. Southwood Smith wished to know, as regarded districts where cholera had broken out, what processes for flushing and cleansing were in operation or in contemplation. He regretted that they were not in a better condition to meet the evil by permanent works, as they might have been, had more cordiality existed amongst the members of the court. As they were not, however, ready to bring forward permanent measures, he hoped that temporary relief would be immediately given in those districts that were suffering the most.

Mr. Lovick said in Surrey and Kent, forty men were engaged in flushing, in addition to fifty previously employed. Several thousand cubic yards of filth had been removed during the last week or two.

Mr. Chadwick said it should be known that only